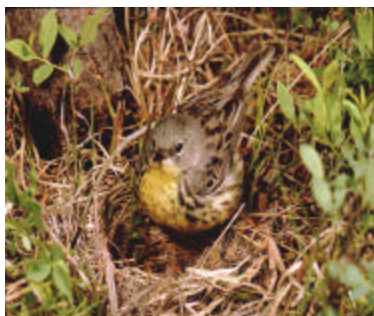


Atlas work is already well underway, with full-scale fieldwork beginning in 2002. Our volunteer network is growing, handbooks have been prepared and distributed to surveyors, and data are being submitted. Our current sponsors have supported the work to date. Your donation will provide the resources to complete this valuable avian conservation tool.



Kirtland's Warbler H. L. Batts, Jr.
Kalamazoo Nature Center

All Atlas donations to the Kalamazoo Nature Center are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to the Kalamazoo Nature Center with MBBA-II in the memo line. We appreciate any help you can provide.

Coordinated by:

Kalamazoo Nature Center
7000 N. Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-6309

Phone: 269-381-9738

Fax: 269-381-1228

Email: miatlas@naturecenter.org

See <http://www.naturecenter.org> for more information.

How you can help:

- **Individual donors will be acknowledged in the following categories:**

Eastern Bluebird—up to \$35

(You will receive an Atlas window decal.)

Northern Cardinal—\$35-\$99

(You will receive a decal and an Atlas patch.)

Wood Duck—\$100-\$299

(Your name will be listed in the book and you will receive a decal, a patch and an Atlas t-shirt.)

Kirtland's Warbler—\$300-\$499

(You will be a species sponsor, with your name on that page in the book and will receive a decal, patch and t-shirt.)

Common Loon—\$500-\$1000

(You will be a species sponsor and receive an 8"x10" photo of your species, a decal, a patch and a t-shirt.)

Bald Eagle—More than \$1000

(You will be a species sponsor and receive a photo, an autographed copy of the publication, a decal, a patch and a t-shirt.)

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- **Corporate or Foundation Donors**

Please contact us to discuss options.

- **Atlas sponsors**

Donors of \$5,000 or more per year may choose to be listed as Atlas Sponsors.



## MICHIGAN'S BREEDING BIRDS NEED YOUR HELP

### *Atlas Sponsors:*



## What is the Atlas?

Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas II is an intensive, relatively short-term effort to create a snapshot of the distribution and abundance of breeding birds in Michigan. The original MBBA, done 20 years ago, established a baseline against which to measure future distribution changes.

The Atlas will document nesting occurrences, habitats and status of rare, threatened, endangered and special concern bird species for use in conservation planning and land-use decisions.

Barn Swallow  
H. L. Batts, Jr.  
Kalamazoo Nature Center



## Why is it important?

The first comprehensive statewide survey of Michigan's breeding birds was conducted in the 1980s. The results of that fieldwork significantly improved knowledge of the distribution of breeding birds and rare, threatened and endangered avian species in Michigan.

Recent data from monitoring programs in the state show some severe declines in avian abundance, including widespread losses in grassland birds. Most changes in bird populations result from habitat change related to natural and human forces.



Cerulean Warbler      Brian Nelson  
Kalamazoo Nature Center

The Atlas also will identify unique habitats or assemblages of bird species for use in conservation management decisions. The data will be used to create maps showing breeding occurrence, distribution and abundance for each species. This will provide data for use by private industry and governmental agencies in preparing environmental assessments and impact statements and in making land-management decisions. Identification of Important Bird Areas (IBA) will depend heavily on the information collected in the Atlas project to identify areas which are important for protecting birds during breeding, migration and wintering.

## How is the Atlas being done?

Most survey work is being done by a large network of volunteer observers who survey quarter-township blocks throughout the state, report casual observations or help conduct point counts. Participants visit habitats during the breeding season to record evidence of breeding for each species and to attempt to confirm nesting. Point counts are being conducted to determine abundance.

## Who can volunteer?

Almost anyone can assist the Atlas as a volunteer observer. There are several possible levels of participation, depending upon time available and birding skills. Atlas staff and regional coordinators provide training and assistance.

**Casual observations:** Whether you watch birds at your feeder, farm, hunt, hike or do anything else outdoors, you are likely to see birds. The only requirements are that you can identify what you see and record where you see it.

**Block surveys:** People who can identify most birds by sight and sound can participate by providing coverage of Atlas priority blocks. These are 1/4-township in size.

**Point counts:** Those doing point counts also will need to be able to identify birds by sight and sound. They will travel a set route, making 25 stops along the way to count the number of each species observed within a 10-minute time period.

Income tax deductions may be taken for mileage accumulated in doing surveys. Refer to IRS and Michigan tax instructions for details.



Northern Harrier      Frederick Treslow  
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology